

California *History Action*

Tuolumne County California's Picturesque Southern Mother Lode and Much More

Before California's Gold Rush impacted the Sierra foothills, what is now Tuolumne County was home to the Central Me-Wuk (or Miwok), who exploited a hunter-gatherer economy that shifted geographically with the seasons. Like most of California's Native Americans, they traded widely despite the difficult terrain and the lack of pack animals. The inrush of gold seekers in the 1850s disrupted the Me-Wuk way of life irreparably, but a replica Me-Wuk village of conical bark houses, a ceremonial roundhouse, and a sweathouse commemorates them. It is on Highway 108 about 15 miles east of Sonora at the Summit Ranger Station.

Sonora took its name from Mexican miners who first panned on Woods Creek in 1849, but miners of many nationalities, including Americans who had fought in the recent Mexican War, came and dotted the creek beds with their primitive mining camps. A walk through the cemetery next to the old schoolhouse at Columbia, half a dozen miles north of Sonora, reveals a diverse Gold Rush population of miners from France, Italy, Ireland, Germany, Russia, and Australia as well as from Mexico, Peru and China. The ethnic mix and competition for mining claims sometimes led to violence and ad hoc justice.

Early miners employed rockers and sluices, which required water to separate gold from dirt and gravel. Because local creeks dried up in the summer, miners formed joint-stock water companies to build reservoirs and flumes, and some miners washed down hillsides with high-pressure hoses. The impact of mining on the landscape remains.

High-built freight wagons drawn by teams of a dozen or more mules soon supplied the southern foothill communities with goods brought to Stockton by water or, later, by rail. Rope-hauled ferries shuttled the wagons across rivers. The names of settlements such as Knights Ferry recall them today, though bridges soon replaced most of them. Many of today's paved roads follow the wagon road alignments. Jamestown, about four miles south of Sonora, became an important teaming center for the foothills. Like Sonora and Columbia, Jamestown soon had substantial fireproof brick buildings, including banks, churches, fraternal halls, hotels, drug stores, butcher shops, and bakeries, as well as saloons and gambling halls.

Gold mining didn't die out after the first rush, and came back strongly with new industrial technology in the 1890s that extracted ore from deep shafts, crushed it in stamp mills, and separated the gold in chemical baths. Water power and, later, electricity drove the machinery. The industry is dormant now, but remains of the mining industry are still visible. Marble quarries near Columbia helped diversify the economy.

Cattle ranching, grain and orchard crops have been important in Tuolumne County's economy, and many ranch families work land they have owned for four or five generations. Lumbering was a major industry until recently, and narrow-gauge railroads twisted through the foothills to haul timber to sawmills. The Sierra Railway, whose shops are preserved at Jamestown as Railtown

Continued on Page 2



In this issue:

- CCPH News 2
- Education & Outreach 3
- Museums 3
- Archives & Collections 4
- Book Reviews 4
- Conferences 5



CCPH News

Our Recording Secretary / Administrative Assistant

As CCPH members, you may or may not know just how much your organization depends upon our student intern. In August, Emily Conrado handed the baton to incoming intern Jennifer Janes. I want to sincerely thank Emily for her astoundingly productive and thoughtful term as our recording secretary (RS) and administrative assistant (AA), and I want to heartily welcome Jennifer into the fold.

CCPH's intern is both the RS for the board of directors and is the AA who serves the entire organization. Unlike most organizations, our intern is a full voting member of our board of directors and also serves on the president's executive committee. The RS/AA is the "face" and voice of CCPH for many members as well as for external contacts. If you write, call, or send an email to the CCPH office, the RS/AA responds. Increasingly, CCPH has used online tools to inform the membership and others who might be interested in what we do and much of this communication rests on the shoulders of our intern. Our working agreement with the CSU Sacramento Department of History provides CCPH with prospective interns each year as well as on-campus office space. For the past several years, we owe the identification of superior recruits to the efforts of Professors Lee M. A. Simpson and Christopher Castaneda.

As members and conference goers, part of our membership and conference fees help to pay the RS/AA for invaluable work. In an almost diabolical inverse relationship, as our dependence upon the RS/AA has soared, CCPH's revenue has fallen. I encourage you—even though times are tough—to direct a contribution to support CCPH's intern position. You can add a sum of your choice to your annual membership by check or credit card or you can make a special donation by check and send it to the CCPH Office (CSU Sacramento, Department of History, CCPH, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6059). As you know, CCPH is a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Won't you chip-in a little extra to help CCPH continue to provide this professionally meaningful internship and, at the same time, continue to provide service to members?

Greetings from Jennifer Janes

My name is Jennifer Janes, and I am the new Administrative Assistant/Recording Secretary for CCPH. I am currently a graduate student at CSU - Sacramento in the Public History MA program. Prior to coming to Sac State, I attended Washington and Lee University in Virginia where I majored in Religion, Sociology & Anthropology. Upon graduation I decided I wanted to pursue a career in history, so I began a History graduate program at George Mason University. I quickly discovered that I am most interested in a career in public history, and decided to transfer to a program that better suited my career goals. My prior experiences in the field of public history include an interpretive internship with the National Park Service on the National Mall and acting as the Oral History Program Coordinator for George Mason University. I am very excited to be working with CCPH!

Tuolumne County

Continued from Page 1

1897 State Historic Park, carried milled lumber, agricultural, mining products from Tuolumne and Standard, just east of Sonora, to an interchange with mainline railroads at Oakdale. The Sierra still hauls freight, but is best known for its tourist-oriented excursion and dinner trains and its ongoing role in motion pictures. For information about Railtown SHP visit www.parks.ca.gov or phone 209 984-3953; for excursion and dinner train information go to www.sierrarailroad.com or phone 800-866-1690.)

Our conference includes a special open house tour of the Carlo M. DeFerrari Archive on Thursday, October 21. The Archive is located at 490 South Greenly Road in Sonora, behind the Tuolumne County Library. Carlo DeFerrari has been Tuolumne County's official historian since the mid-1970s and had a 32-year career as County Clerk. He donated his historical library, including newspapers (on microfilm), photos, maps, and oral history interviews, all carefully indexed for reference. He also donated his family's historical gun collection, which is on display at the Tuolumne County Historical Society's Museum, 158 West Bradford Avenue, Sonora. The Museum exhibits highlight Tuolumne County towns and geographical regions. Regrettably their adjoining History Center research facility is currently closed for renovation. For more information go to www.tchistory.org, or phone 209 532-1317. This web site includes a detailed timeline and individual histories of towns and regions of Tuolumne County, including lists of historic sites and buildings to visit. Some are preserved as museums, while others still function commercially. Some historic bed and breakfast inns listed on our conference program. The County Museum is housed in the former county jail, and the Sonora Fire Museum displays an 1876 hand pumper.

Though none of the three major towns number even 5,000 residents today, they were never abandoned, and walking through them with knowledge of their history is rewarding. Columbia became a State Historic Park in 1945 and the historic core been extensively restored; its Main Street has changed little, and its famous Wells Fargo building and, outside town, the red brick schoolhouse are famous icons of the Gold Country's past.

California History Action

Volume 28, Number 2

Spring 2010

ISSN 0882-357X

Published quarterly by the
California Council for the
Promotion of History

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Education and Outreach

Groundbreaking Promotion & Tenure Report Concerning Public History Released

Adapted From Public History News

"Tenure, Promotion, and the Publicly Engaged Academic Historian," a report offering best practices for evaluating public history scholarship in history departments, was approved by the Organization of American Historians (OAH) Executive Board on April 8, the National Council for Public History (NCPH) Board of Directors on June 3, and the American Historical Association (AHA) Council on June 5. Public history work, the report confirms, is generally overlooked in a "tenure process that emphasizes single-authored monographs and articles at the expense of other types of scholarly productions." Despite increasing interest in public history, public scholarship, and other forms of civic engagement in colleges and universities, current standards in history departments and deans' offices for evaluating historical scholarship "do not reflect the great variety of historical practice undertaken by faculty members." Even departments that hire faculty specifically to teach public history often neglect to reward those historians for carrying out the range of public history activities required in their jobs.

The report, which is available on the NCPH Web site (<http://ncph.org>), provides clear advice for college and university administrators, department chairs, and faculty. It begins with an overview of existing promotion and tenure standards, analyzes the growing interest of college and university administrators in community engagement, and suggests how public history work should be evaluated as scholarship, teaching, and service. The committee that conducted this study hopes it will have ramifications beyond academia, perhaps in organizations such as federal or state agencies where the work of public historians is evaluated in promotion decisions. The report concludes that, if they truly want to embrace public engagement as an institutional value, colleges and universities must not only establish a tenure process that expands the definition of "what counts" for purposes of tenure, but also create a broader definition of "who counts" in terms of peer review.

History Display Blog: "Off the Wall"

Adapted From Public History News



Among the events reviewed on NCPH Off the Wall was the NorCal Pirate Festival at Mare Island, Vallejo in June 2010. Photo and article at <http://ncphoffthewall.blogspot.com/2010/07/more-faux-pirates-than-you-can-shake.html>

The National Council for Public History's Digital Media Group launched a new digital venture early this summer: a blog called "Off the Wall: Critical Reviews of History Exhibit Practice in an Age of Ubiquitous Display." A well-developed set of conventions for reviewing print media does exist, of course, and public historians are already adept at critically assessing museum exhibits, public art, film, and newer media such as Web sites. But the universe of history-related display continues to expand in many directions and the NCPH blog aims to try to catch up with some of it and to think about how it all relates to public history practice. What are we to make, for example, of a new mall design that mimics a small-town American Main Street? Can street art be considered as public history if it invokes history in some way? Should we incorporate things like vernacular memorials, advertising campaigns, and cell phone apps more fully into our professional dialogue about exhibits? "Off the Wall" aims to pose these kinds of questions. Reviewers include new and experienced practitioners from across the field of public history and some of its adjacent and related disciplines. The group hopes that the blog format will allow for a good deal of response and discussion that will push the conversation about what a history exhibit is, what it might be, and how historians can participate most productively. To visit the blog, go to ncphoffthewall.blogspot.com.

Museums

Traditional and Contemporary Works: Native American Artists at the Autry

Thanks to Yadhira De Leon, Sr. Public Relations Manager, The Autry National Center

The Autry Center in Griffith Park in Los Angeles will hold its annual American Indian Arts Marketplace on November 6-7, 2010, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Over 120 living artists representing more than 40 tribes will show and discuss their traditional methods and contemporary art forms with visitors, including pottery, jewelry, sculptures, paintings, mixed-media works, weavings, beadwork and woodcarvings. Native American dancers, musicians and storytellers will perform, and Native American foods will be available in addition to the varied menu in the Autry's Golden Spur Cafe. Adult admission is \$12; seniors, students (with ID), and children over 10, \$8. Children under 10 are admitted free.

The Marketplace weekend also marks the closing of The Art of Native American Basketry: A Living Tradition exhibit drawn from the world's largest and most important collection of Native American baskets, representing 11 regions and more than 100 cultural groups. For more information visit www.theAutry.org.

Archives & Collections

State to Relocate Collections

Adapted from www.news10.net

A plan to move the State Department of Parks and Recreation's historical collections to new climate-controlled buildings within the next few years is going forward, aided by lower costs for land, construction, and building stock, according to Curator Ross McGuire. The move is essential in order to prevent further deterioration of the collections, which consist of more than a million artifacts, including pioneer wagons and furniture, guns, 10,000 photographs of California spanning 150 years, paintings, and one of the largest and best collections of California Indian baskets in the world. You can see an 18-slide show of some of these items at www.news10.net/news/local; type "state parks artifacts and storage" into the search box.

The present West Sacramento facility leaks and has no humidity control. "We need a much colder room than this," said McGuire, speaking of the photograph collection, "and heat also accelerates the decomposition of organic material." He pointed out that changes in humidity can crack wood and deteriorate leather. Developers are competing to design what McGuire described as "a massively insulated, dense facility that the heat just doesn't penetrate very much." Like a wine cellar, someone observed. "It's a win-win. It's good for the collections, it's good for California's heritage, and it's a good measure for cost-savings in government," McGuire said.

Nixon Library Releases Additional Materials Including Oral History Files

Adapted from National Coalition for History

On July 2, the National Archives Richard Nixon Presidential Library released nearly 100,000 pages of Presidential records and 80 hours of video oral histories. Selected materials are available online at: www.nixonlibrary.gov. The bulk of the newly released documents come from the White House office files of former Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a Democrat who served in the Nixon administration from January 1969 to December 1970. The Moynihan papers detail his role in shaping administration policy on welfare reform, population control, civil rights, the environment, and drug control. Also in this release are 5,000 pages of formerly classified national security records. The Library also released 47 video oral histories, which are available in the Library's research room. The Nixon Library's video oral history program, which has produced 126 oral histories so far, is creating the largest video oral history collection at any Presidential library.

Book Reviews

Images of America: Sonora

By Michael Gahagan
Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2007. 127 pp, illus. \$19.99 paper

Like all books in the Images series, *Sonora* tells most of its story through explanatory captions of crisp, clear images. The captions are well-researched and well-written, and a brief introductory chapter helps the reader fit the images into the context of Sonora's complex history. Topics include mining and quarrying; the cityscape and its architectural landmarks; fire fighting (the volunteer fire companies survive as social clubs); fraternal organizations and athletic clubs; and forests and lumbering.

Many of the images are striking: a Chinese miner in a traditional woven conical hat panning for gold; a steam-powered tractor driven by a maze of chains and shafts drawing half a dozen wagons of milled lumber; children dressed as firefighters pulling a hose cart in a parade; and well-dressed people taking a final ride on a ferry boat across the Stanislaus River. The captions tell us about the larger significance of the photos. The caption to a photo of a stagecoach stop sketches the history of stagecoach service

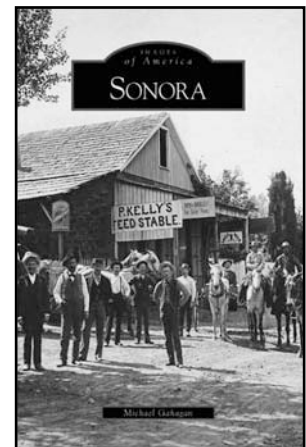
to Sonora, including fares, for example, and a photo of miners deep underground includes data about the quartz vein they followed and the mill that processed the ore. This is a book that will repay study as well as browsing.

Authors have to select photos from those that are available and, unsurprisingly, many of these are family portraits. Detailed captions here focus on family history, but the people are interesting subjects in themselves and some of their names are associated with buildings, institutions, and activities that turn up elsewhere in the book.

Chapters about architectural landmarks and about the preservation of Sonora's downtown include some distance shots that locate buildings in relation to the town as well as close-up shots that show landscaping and architectural details. Captions here trace the careers of buildings and institutions, and visitors to Sonora will find them a useful guide to what they are looking at: the 1896 turreted Victoria Hotel survives as the Sonora Inn, for example. Other captions trace the town's newspaper history under illustrations of offices and presses.

A good companion book, especially for those who will be attending the CPH fall, 2010 conference, is *Images of America: Columbia*, by the Friends of Columbia State Historic Park. Charleston, SC: Arcadia, 2005.

A. C. W. Bethel, Professor (emeritus), Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.



Conferences and Calls for Papers

Future Anterior seeks papers from scholars in preservation and its allied fields that explore the histories of globalization in a variety of geopolitical contexts and timeframes, and that highlight the role of various preservationist enterprises. Papers should not only present rigorous historical research but also outline a critical analysis of the politics of preservation. Articles for peer review should be no more than 4000 words, with up to five illustrations. Text must be formatted in accordance with the Chicago Manual of Style, 15th Edition. All articles must be submitted in English, and spelling should follow American convention. **Deadline is September 15, 2010.** For more details, visit their Web site at www.upress.umn.edu/journals/futureanterior/fa_msguidelines.html.

The **Pioneer America Society** is now accepting paper proposals for its 42nd annual conference held at Castleton State College in Castleton, Vermont, on **October 13-16, 2010**. Abstracts should be no longer than 300 words. The deadline is **September 17, 2010**. For more details, visit their Web site at www.pioneeramerica.org/annualmeeting2010call.html.

Michigan State University Museum announces a major event this fall, **October 8, 2010: "Unpacking Collections: The Legacy of Cuesta Benberry and a Symposium on Using Quilt History Collections"** to explore the connections between using collections in making or studying quilts. For more details, visit their Web site at museum.msu.edu/Events/cbsymposium.

The 2010 **Western Museums Association Annual Meeting** will take place **October 17-20** at the Lloyd Center Doubletree Hotel in Portland, OR. This year's theme is "75 Years: Reflecting on the Past, Envisioning the Future." For more information, see www.westmuse.org.

The **San Francisco State University 12th Annual International Graduate Students Film Conference**, "Histories Created through Film," will be held at SFS during **October 20-22, 2010**. This conference seeks to explore the role of cinema in reflecting and contributing to concepts of historical events, identity politics, cultures, cults and celebrity. For more details, visit their Web site at userwww.sfsu.edu/~cinetsa/CSGSA/Call_For_Papers.html.

The 2010 **California Council for the Promotion of History Conference** will take place **October 21-23** in Sonora, CA. This year's theme is "What's So Funny about History." For more information, see www.csus.edu/org/ccph/Conference.

The 2010 **National Preservation Conference** will take place **October 27-30** in Austin, TX. For more information, see www.preservationnation.org/resources/training/npc.

The 2010 **Oral History Association's Annual Meeting** will take place **October 27-31** in Atlanta, GA. This year's theme is "Times of Crisis, Times of Change: Human Stories on the Edge of Transformation." For more information, see www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting.

The **PCA/ACA & Southwest/Texas Popular Culture and American Culture Associations Joint Conference** seeks Paper and Panel Proposals for the Collecting, Collectibles, Collectors, and Collections Area. The conference, **April 20-23, 2011**, will be held in San Antonio, TX. The proposal deadline is **December 15, 2010**. For more details, visit their Web site at www.swt-xpca.org.

The 9th Annual **Hawaii International Conference on Arts and Humanities** will be held from **January 9-12, 2011** at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Beach Resort & Spa in Honolulu, Hawaii. For more details, visit their Web site at www.hichumanities.org.

A conference for "**Reading Coastal Footprints: Ecology and Maritime Archaeology in the Pacific**," will be held **February 18-21, 2011** in Hilo, HI. For more details, visit their Web site at www.mahhi.org.

The **International Society for the Social Studies Annual Conference** will be held **February 24-25, 2011** in Orlando, FL. For more details, visit their Web site at www.TheISSS.org.

The **California Association of Museums** will focus on exploring strategies, resources, and ideas for strengthening museums and communities for its next conference, which will take place in Pasadena, CA, **March 2-4, 2011**. For more details, visit their Web site at calmuseums.org.

The next **National Council for History Education Conference**, "The Causes and Consequences of Civil Wars," will take place **March 31-April 2, 2011** in Charleston, SC. For more information, see www.nche.net/index.html.

The 2011 **National Council on Public History Annual Meeting** will take place **April 6-10, 2011** in Pensacola, FL. The theme is, "Crossing Borders/Building Communities – Real and Imagined." For more information, see www.ncph.org.

The **Society of California Archivist Annual General Meeting** is set for **April 28-30, 2011** in San Jose, CA. For more details, visit their Web site at www.calarchivists.org.

Libraries & The Cultural Record, a peer-reviewed journal of history published by the University of Texas Press, invites submissions for a special issue devoted to exploring historical perspectives on state library agencies in the United States. For more information, visit their Web site at www.h-net.org/announce/show.cgi?ID=177656&keyword=archives.

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CHA Editorial Information

California History Action is the official publication of the California Council for the Promotion of History. Its purpose is to disseminate news to the membership. The organization's numerous committee chairs provide much of the information herein. It is the responsibility of the general membership to provide input to the newsletter. This sharing of information is critical to the well-being of the organization.

Issues will be produced quarterly, with submission deadlines at the first of the month of March, June, September, and December. Material must be received prior to the deadline to be printed in the current issue and should be submitted directly to the editors at the address below.

It is preferred that articles and other material be submitted electronically by email (either in the text of the message or as an attachment). However, typewritten printed material is also accepted by mail. Please send book review submissions to Walt Bethel at acwbethel@sbcglobal.net. All other submissions may be sent to Paul Sandul at sandulpj@sfasu.edu, or

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We're all interested in bringing California's ongoing story to the community, so come share your research interests with the rest of us. We're always looking for interesting articles and book reviews. You can send us a short paragraph or two, or a 700-word essay. We'll work with you on shaping it up, too, and you don't have to be a Ph.D. or a prof.

Interested? Send an email to Co-Editor Paul Sandul at sandulpj@sfasu.edu

Join the California Council for the Promotion of History

All members receive issues of *California History Action*, the CCPH newsletter for history advocacy, notices of CCPH conferences and workshops, and other CCPH publications. Corporate and Institutional members also receive membership rates for two individuals at conferences and other events.

Annual dues are due January 1; those received from new members after August 1 will be credited to the next year.

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For rates and submission guidelines, contact the CCPH Publications Committee at californiahistoryaction@yahoo.com.



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California State University,
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California History Action
Fall 2010

Jamestown Emporium, photo by Betty and Joe Sparagna